Does The Soul Return?

Shaikh al-Islam as-Shaikh
Imam Ahmad Raza Khan

Translated by
Dr. Muhammad Raza

This book is translated and prepared on request by:
Pir Muhammad Ilyas Qadri Kashmiri

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General Editors Preface

It is every Muslims duty to invite people to Islam and to help improve society, especially in this age of wickedness and immorality. It is especially important in this age to publish Islamic literature and it is especially important to publish such literature in English, especially for the Muslim youth.

For these reasons Raza Academy has undertaken the publication of a series of books in English, concentrating especially on the literature of Sunni Islam, and the works of Shaikh al-Islam, As-Shaikh, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi.

We would like to thank all those involved, writers editors, those who provide financial help, administrators and call for Allah Ta'ala's blessing on them and for prayers for them from all who read these books.

Mahmood Ilyas
Marouf Ilyas
Jabir Ilyas
General Editors, Raza Academy

Acknowledgement

It is every Muslims duty to pass on knowledge of Islam and to strive to serve Islam and the Muslim Community in the best way possible. It was with these intentions that the Raza Academy was established in 1979, under the patronage of the eminent, Muslim Scholar and a Wali-Allah (Saint), Hazrat Pir Sayyid Abdul Kamal Burq Qadri Nawshahi (Rahmatullahi Alaih).

Raza Academy is named after one of the Greatest Muslims in the Modem Age, Hazrat Shaikh al-Islam, as-Shaikh, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi (Rahmatullahi Alaih) who was born in 1856 and passed away in 1921, he was so great that he was given the title of the Reviver of the Fourteenth Islamic Century. His writings and life are of the greatest importance to the Muslims in the world today.

We knew that this task would be difficult, for neither did we have the support nor money, but our intention was pure and sincere, and we relied upon Allah Ta'ala and hoped for His help and the Blessings of His Beloved Holy Prophet

Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam).

In 1984 we published an English translation of the Holy Quran. Then in November 1985, we began publishing a monthly journal, 'The Islamic Times', which has been continuously published every month since 1985. This was an extremely difficult task, but with Allah Ta'ala's help and Blessings the Journal survived overcame all difficulties and went from strength to strength.

We have until now published over one hundred books on Islam. This was only possible with the help of Allah Ta'ala and the Blessings of His Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam).

We pray that Allah Ta'ala will give all those who write, translate and provide financial help for the Raza Academy, a rich reward in this World and the Next. Ameen!

We would like to express our gratitude to our spiritual guide Hazrat Mawlana Subhan Raza Sahib, Subhani Mian, Sajjadah Nasheen, Bareilly Shareef, India and Hazrat Mawlana Muhammad Mansha Sahib, Qasuri, Lahore,

Pakistan, for their Blessings and Du'as.

Finally, we would like to thank all Bothers and Sisters, especially, Hafiz Muhammad Alam, Muhammad Afzal Habib, Dr. Muhammad Aslam Junejo, Dr. Mawlana Abdul Naim Azizi, Tahir Sattar, Muhammad Sabir, and sister Amina Baraka and sister Maryam for their help. May Allah Ta'ala give all of them a rich reward in both the Worlds. Ameen!

Pir Muhammad Ilyas Chatrovi, Kashmiri
Founder and Chairman

Preface

This book by Shaikh al-Islam as-Shaikh Imam Ahmad Raza Khan has been translated from Urdu and prepared specially for the Raza Academy, Stockport, UK. The Raza Academy is attempting to make available in English the works of the great Imam and reviver (Mujaddid) of Islam, Shaikh al-Islam as-Shaikh Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi.

Muslims of the World have been United upon this belief that souls are a special secret of Allah Ta'ala; and no one knows anything about them or ever will know this secret, except Allah Ta'ala. And He will inform this secret to his Last and the Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) who has been informed about this secret of the souls by Allah Ta'ala Himself.

But there are some people who call themselves Muslim, but they reject that souls can return after the death. This could the faith of an materialistic person, but not of truly believing Muslim.

The Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) has said in many Hadiths about this issue and his Sahabah, Imams and Awliya have mentioned them to their disciples; and they

informed their disciples, and they recorded them in their valuable books.

This question was sent to Shaikh al-Islam as-Shaikh Imam Ahmad Raza Khan, the great Imam has scholarly answered the question. And he quoted ayats from the Holy Quran, Hadiths of the Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) sayings of the Sahabahs, Ulama, Awliya and Imams of Deen; and proved, that there is absolute agreement of the Ummah, that Muslim souls are allowed to return to their home, on the eve between Thursday and Friday, and on Eid's days and on 15th of Shaban.

Thus, the Imam did a good favour for the Muslim by resolving issue by quoting references from Hadiths of the Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) and proved through them that, this issue is completely within the Islamic Shariah.

I am sure that Muslims brothers and sisters will appreciate the translation of this work by the great Imam, and benefit from it. Ameen!

I have tried my best to translate this book into easy and simple English language; and the respected readers will decide how successful I

have been. And I hope if, there are any errors in my translation, my Muslim brother and sisters will favour me by correcting them, and they will also inform me of my errors.

I also would like to ask my Muslim brothers and sisters for special prayers for me and my family and, I hope they will always remember me and all members of the Raza Academy, Stockport, in their prayers.

May Allah Ta'ala accept my efforts and endeavours for the sake of His beloved and the Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) and reward me immensely, and also all members of Raza Academy, in the Here and in the Hereafter. Ameen!

Dr. Muhammad Raza

Introduction

Shaikh al-Islam, as-Shaikh Imam Ahmad Raza (Rahmatullahi Alaih) was born 1856 and passed away in 1921. He was the greatest Muslim theologian and Imam of the time. Even his foes in his time and today acknowledged him as the highest authority on Islam. He was called Imam Abu Hanifa, Ghazalli, Imam Razi and Imam Ibn Arabi, of the time.

The Imam was asked this question. The Imam like always has answered these sort of questions in full detail. And here in this answer, he has too, beautifully quoted detailed references from the Holy Quran, Hadith and from the books of the Islamic Faith, that what is the origin of the soul? Allah Ta'ala created the soul and no one know except whom He has informed about this, except His Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam)

This and so many other such beliefs of the Muslims have been up until the 18th C.A., when Western domination took over the Muslim countries, and created new sects. One of these sects which was founded and was called, 'Wahabiyyah', in Arabia, and was funded by and flourished through its foreigner masters, all over the Muslim countries.

The man who was prepared for this task was a lunatic, misled and an ignorant, Ibn Abdul Wahab Najdi. If the readers would like more informations about him, we would like them to read the book "Confessions of a British Spy." This book tells exactly how Ibn Wahab was prepared to introduce a

new religion under the disguise of Islam. This religion has no match with the true religion of Islam.

The first amongst those who refuted and opposed Ibn Abdul Wahab, was his elder brother, who was a great Alim, Shaikh Sulaiman Ibn Abdul Wahab. He declared him a heretic, misguided and ignorant of Islamic teachings. Many other prominent scholars of his time in Makkah, other parts of Arabia and throughout the Muslim world gave their verdicts against him, and declared him an outcast, heretic, and misled.

One among them was, Sayyid Ahmad Dhallan Makki, who was the greatest scholar of Islam at that time. He quoted detailed references from the Holy Quran, Hadith and the books of the Islamic Faith, and refuted the Wahabiyyah.

All Muslims were Sunni until the 18th C.A., with exception of some tiny mini sects here and there. All Sunni scholars during that time, in the whole of the Islamic world, refuted him and compiled books against him. All Muslim scholars, around the world also agreed and gave their verdicts against him of his being an agent of the enemies of Islam, a misled and a rebellious person.

Amongst them was another venerated scholar from Syria, the author of a famous Fiqh book "Radd al-Mukhtar", and his name was Sayyid Ibn Abidein,

Shami, his above mention book is regarded as the most authentic book and taught at all the high-level Islamic learning institutions all over the Muslim world.

When Ibn Abdul Wahab's book "Kitab at-Tawheed", reached India and was translated into local language by Ismail Dehlvi, while he was translating this book, his uncle Shah Abdul Aziz, Muhaddith Dehlvi, called him and advised him not to translation and publish this book. Because this book would cause havoc and great turmoil among all Muslims. But he did not heed his uncle's advice and completed the translation and also published it.

So Shah Abdul Aziz, commissioned his other nephew, Shaikh Muhammad Musa, Muhaddith, to refute that book, which he did, as he was a Scholar of high distinction. He also debated with Ismail Dehlvi, with all Sunni Ulama in the family, and so many other scholars, like Mawlana Fazal Haque, Khairabadi, and Shah Fazal Rasool, Badayuni, while on the other side, Ismail, himself and, a few of his cronies and followers. Mawlana Musa defeated Ismail in the Jama Masjid's debate, in Delhi.

As the new sect had the full support of the British Raj at hand, they gradually increased in number, but despite the British support, this sect is still today in the minority. They are very cunning and stupid and they pretend that they are the only

representatives of Islam in the world. Though they are few in numbers. This is just like the Zionists.

It is proved without any doubt today, that this translation of the book, was printed and published through British financial funding in hundreds and thousands of quantities; and was distributed free of charge all over India to convert the people to this heretical sect. In this book, the Holy Quran was interpreted wrongly to suit this sect to fulfil the interests of its foreign masters.

Many of the sound Hadiths were rejected, because these did not suit their wrong beliefs. Especially, the reverence, respect and honour that the Muslims hold for the Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) in the light of the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Hadiths. The Last and the beloved Prophet of Allah Ta'ala, was degraded from low to the lowest, just like an ordinary person.

All Muslims from the Sixth Islamic Century up to the present day, were declared and labelled as Mushrik. This was a time that keeping ones faith safe was really a very, very hard task. Those group who followed this heretic Wahabi teachings, are operating under different names, and are working to mislead the true Muslims.

A few main groups of Wahabiyyah sect are working presently using these names, for example, Deobandis, Ahle Hadith, Ahle Quran,

Jama'at Islami (Mawdudi Party), Tablighi Jama'at, Hisbul Tahrir, al-Muhajerun, Muslim brotherhood, al-Qaeda, Salafis and many others names, in the world and most of the Taliban, too are Wahabi.

Allah Ta'ala works mysteriously to save the Ummah of His Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) and safeguard the teachings of Islam. He showed mercy upon the Muslims, when there was no apparent help available to the Muslims to safeguard their faith.

Allah Ta'ala opened the heart of Shaikh al-Islam, al-Shaikh, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan, Barelvi (Rahmatullahi Alaih), to come forward and defend the Islamic faith of the millions of ordinary Muslims of India and else where, who were labelled as Mushrik by this new sect.

Imam Ahmad Raza Khan (Rahmatullahi Alaih) defended the true Islamic faith, as a true believer of Allah Ta'ala and His Holy Prophet (Sall Allah Alaihi wa Sallam). He refuted this new sect vigorously, with authentic and strong proofs to which this new sect had no reply.

All Praises are for Allah Ta'ala, that despite the fact that no stone was left unturned to destroy the true Islamic Faith, but this did not happen. Muslim Holy Lands of Makkah and Madinah, were given to the Wahabis by the British Raj, as a gift for opposing the Turk Muslims and

helping the British Raj in the First World War.

This sect did everything possible to turn all the Muslims of the world to Wahabism, but they did not succeed, nor will they. Because Allah Ta'ala has promised to protect the true Islam, until end of the world, and whatever the enemies of Islam do to destroy Islam from within or from outside, they will never succeed.

This sect also destroyed all the fourteen century history of Islam in Arabia in name of 'Tawheed.' Their puppets around the world supported their efforts in destroying the Islamic history throughout the Holy Lands of Islam. All Muslims of the world despise Saudi Wahabi Raj's efforts for destroying the Islamic history in Arabia.

These puppets of Mushrik and Idolaters, think by doing this they will destroy and wipe out, Islam and Muslim from the world, this day dream by them shall never come true.

When Muslims of the world, see how different are the beliefs of this sect from those beliefs that have been practiced from the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam). They are astonished. When Muslims see that everything they do or they saw practising their elders, Wahabiyyah label them as Bid'ah (forbidden and unlawful).

Wahabiyyah practice themselves many evil

things, which are utterly forbidden in Islam, believing them good. Islam to them is, something private that, when they want something is good; and when they don't want, that will be forbidden.

Shaikh al-Islam as-Shaikh, Imam Raza Khan's work is like a lighthouse for all seekers of true Islamic knowledge, and demand for his scholarly work is ever increasing. He was questioned, how it is possible that a soul can return after death?

By raising this question they proved that they are so stupid, it seems that they never read the Holy Quran, Hadith literature and other Islamic sources, where it is mentioned that Allah Ta'ala created the soul, these are Allah Ta'ala's commands, and His command can never die. Hadith of the Holy Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) clearly mentioned what happens to souls after a human dies, where good souls rest, stay for comfort, and where evil souls are taken for punishment.

The great Imam, like a true servant of the Islamic Faith, quoted references from the great Mujtahedun, Imams and Awliya that what they have written in their valuable books and what Quran and Hadiths indicates regarding this issue.

Shaikh al-Islam Imam Ahmad Raza Khan has mentioned all references, in a scholarly way, that no doubt remains in any mind on this issue.

The Raza Academy has been attempting to

translate the Shaikh al-Shaikh Imam Ahmad Raza Khan's, work into English. This is another success for us that we at the Raza Academy are publishing this book's translation, into simple English. We are grateful, to Dr. Muhammad Raza for translating this work for the Raza Academy.

We will, Insha-Allah Ta'ala, soon translate and publish more translations of the great Imam Ahmad Raza Khan's works.

Hafiz Muhammad Alam
Amina Baraka
Muhammad Afzal Habib
Sattar Tahir

Question: 1

What do the learned and distinguished Ulama (scholars) of Islam say regarding the following issue in the light of the Holy Quran and Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam), Sahabah, venerated and learned Imams, our pious and virtuous predecessors, that: "Does the soul of the deceased Muslim ever return and visit their homes after their death or not?

And do the souls of the deceased Muslims also come; and request for the reward of good actions (Asal thawab) from their relatives, such as the recitation of the Holy Quran, or any other charity, or distribution of food, or money?

If the souls of the deceased Muslims do visit their own homes their relatives and friends homes then, on what particular days does the soul generally come, visit and request for the reward (Asal thawab) from their family, relatives and friends?

There are some people who say that they do not believe that the souls of the deceased Muslims are allowed to come back to their homes after their death.

Therefore, they refuse to acknowledge it. Is this a sin to deny the coming back of the souls? If so, what sort of sin will it be? Kindly describe in detail so that, the Muslim community know and understand this issue in the light of the true and genuine teachings of Islam.

May Allah Ta'ala reward you immensely for your efforts, and endeavours and for benefiting the Muslim community and Islam; by the means and the intercession of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam). Ameen!

Answer: 1

The distinguished and learned Imam, Allama Hazrat Shaikh Abdul Haque Muhaddith (a genuine, true and venerated scholar of Hadith literature) Dehlwi (Radi Allahu Anh) has stated in his most renowned and authentic annotation of the Hadiths book "Mishkat al-Masabih", in the chapter of "Visiting the graves", as follows:

"To give the Sadaqa (charity) on behalf of those who have deceased; for seven days after someone in the family has died. It will be mustahab (a desirable action) to do so. To give the Sadaqa on behalf of the deceased's soul is a

means of attaining benefit for a Muslim, who has died.

There is no disagreement, or any dispute amongst the most learned Imams, the venerated Ulama, and the distinguished Sufis regarding this issue. There are many Sahih (sound and true) Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) which support this matter reported in the Hadiths books regarding this issue. Especially, for the distribution of water for the deceased Muslim's soul.

This is the opinion of the venerated Ulama, the great Imams and the distinguished Sufis that, the deceased soul receives the reward from the Sadaqa and Dua's (prayer and supplications) after death.

This is also mentioned in some Hadiths of the Last and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) that, the souls visit their home on the eve of every Friday (eve between Thursday and Friday) and they wait and see if, any Sadaqa (charity) is being given away for them." (Asha'at al-Lama'at), (a commentary on the Hadiths book "Mishkat al-Masabih").

Hazrat Shaikh Allama Abdul Haque Dehlwi has also mentioned in his other renowned and famous book, "Kashf al-Ghita", in the chapter six, as follows:

"It is recorded in the scholarly written and authentic and renowned books "al-Gara'ib", and "al-Khazana", that: 'By the Allah Ta'ala's command the souls of the deceased Muslims return and visit their homes on the evening of every Friday (in the evening of Thursday, when the day has passed).

And on the days of each Eid; and on the eve and day of Ashura, and in the evening of the Shab-i-Barat (Fifteenth of Shaban, the eighth Islamic calendar month) and during the night of the Lailat al-Qadr (odd nights 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 in last ten nights of holy month of Ramadan).

The Soul stays outside the house and it request in a very sad voice: 'O my Family!', 'O my Children!', 'O my Relatives and my friends!', 'Please show your compassion and generosity towards me by giving some Sadaqa.'"

It is also written in the famous and renowned book "Sharah as-Sudoor", by the venerated and the great Imam Jalaluddin Suyuti.

He has presented in this book many Hadiths regarding these special occasions.

"When the soul of the deceased sinful Muslims are allowed and freed by Allah Ta'ala to return and visit their homes. This holiday is specifically for ordinary and sinful Muslims, but the virtuous are free to go anywhere, whenever they want at any time. There is no condition imposed on them. Because they are friends of Allah Ta'ala; beloved of His most beloved and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam)."

The above mentioned statement clearly demonstrates and proves that, there are such Hadiths, which have been recorded in the Hadith literatures, and this issue is proved through authentic, sound and true Hadiths.

This must also be remembered that in any subject that, does not pertain to the Aqida (on obligations and fundamentals of Islamic Belief) or, on such issues, which relates to the lawful (Halal) and unlawful (Haram) even the weak Hadiths will be accepted; according to consensus and agreements of the learned Ulama and the great Imams.

The most distinguished and the great Imam Abdullah bin Mubarak and also venerated Imam Abu Bakr bin Abi Shaiba (Radi Allahu Anhuma) have both reported from the teacher of Imam Bukhari, who is the author of the most authentic and famous Hadiths book "Sahih al-Bukhari", and Imam Muslim, who is the author of another most authentic and famous Hadiths book "Sahih al-Muslim", and he, reported from Hazrat Abdullah bin Amar bin Aas (Radi Allahu Anhum).

And Imam Ahmad bin Hanabal (Radi Allahu Anh) has also reported in his Hadiths book "Musannad", and Imam Tabarani, has too, reported in his Hadiths book "al-Mau'ajam Kabeer", as well as Imam Hakam has reported in his famous Hadiths book "Sahih al-Mustadrik", and as well as Imam Abu Naeem, has reported in his renowned and reliable Hadiths book "Hilya", as a Sahih (sound or true) Hadith.

We will quote here this Hadith, from the most renowned and famous book of Imam Abdullah Ibn Mubarak. In this Hadith, it is mentioned that, the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) has

said: "Verily, this World is a Paradise for the disbelievers and a prison for the truly believing Muslims.

When the soul of a Muslim departs from his body, its example is like a person, who was in a prison cell; and therefore, he was not allowed so, could not move freely. As prisoners are restricted inside the prison's wall. But, when he has been released and freed from the prison then, he can freely go and travel on the earth wherever he desires to go to." (Kitab al-Zuhd).

There is another Hadith of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) which has been reported by Imam Abu Bakr bin Abi Shaiba as follows:

"When a truly believing Muslim passes away from this World then, the path for him is wide and opened to go anywhere. He can go wherever he longs to go to without any restriction and prohibition."

The venerated and distinguished Imam Ibn Abi Duniya and the versified Imam Baihaqi, have both reported from the most learned one amongst the exalted Taba'een, Hazrat Imam Sa'eed Ibn Musaiyyab (Radi Allahu Anhum) that: "Once

Hazrat Salman Farsi and Hazrat Abdullah bin Salam (Radi Allahu Anhuma) met with each other.

One of them said to the other: 'if you pass away before me then, you should inform me that what has happened with you there, in the World Hereafter.'

The other one, replied: 'Can a dead and living person meet each other?' The first one, replied: 'Yes! They do meet. The souls of the truly believing Muslims are stationed in Jannat (Paradise). By the supreme command of Allah Ta'ala, they are allowed and can choose wherever they want to go to.'" (Shuaib al Iman).

Hazrat Imam Abdullah Ibn Mubarak has reported in his Hadiths book "Kitab al-Zuhd", and Imam Abu Bakr bin Abi Duniya, Imam Ibn Munda, and all have reported from Hazrat Salman Farsi (Radi Allahu Anh):

"Verily, the souls of the dead Muslims are in the Barzakh (a place between This World and the Next World). They are allowed, and can go wherever they desire. And the souls of the kaffirs are imprisoned in Sijjeen (the lowest and hellish part of the Earth)." (Kitab al-Zuhd).

The venerated and the great Imam Jalaluddin Suyuti has reported that, Imam Ibn Abi Duniya has reported from a Companion of the last and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) Hazrat Ans bin Malik (Radi Allahu Anh) and, he has narrated, that: "A Hadith has reached me in which it is said: 'The souls of truly believing Muslims are free. They are allowed, and can go wherever they desire to go.'" (Sharah as-Sudoor).

The great Imam Jalaluddin Suyuti (Radi Allahu Anh) again stated in his most renowned and famous book "Sharah as-Sudoor", that: "Imam Abu Umar Ibn Abdul Barr has said: 'It is commonly known that, the souls of the Martyrs are in the Jannat, in the lantern of light in the shapes of birds, and the souls of other Muslims are close to their graves. They are allowed to come and go as they desire."

It is written in the Tafseer (commentary) of the book "Jame Sagheer", by Allama Manawi that: "Verily, when the soul is separated from its body and it is set free from its imprisonment (physical body) through, death. Then, it is allowed and can come and go wherever it desires

and wishes to go to."

A great Alim from India, during the Moghal Rule, Qazi Thana Ullah Panipati, also has written in his authentic and famous book, "Tazkirat al-Mawta", that: "The souls of the Awliya are allowed and can come and go in the Heavens every where, in the Earth, and in the Jannat. They can go and come back wherever they desire."(Misbah an-Noor, the translation of the book "Tazkirat al-Mawta").

It is also stated in another renowned book "Khazanat al-Riwayat", that: "It is reported from the great Imams, the Ulama and the Awliya that, they say that: 'The ordinary and common Muslim's souls are set free on the evening of every Friday (eve between Thursday and Friday). Then they begin to speed out from their places. First, they come to their graves, and then they proceed to their homes."

It is also written in the well known book "Dastur al-Qaz'zat" that: "Verily, the souls of the ordinary and common Muslims do visit their homes on the evening of every Friday. They stand outside the door and say in a very sad voice: 'O my family!', 'O my children!', 'O my elders!',

'Please be generous towards us with the Sadaqa (charity) on our behalf.

And remember us and do not forget us. Show towards us your compassion and your generosity, in our state of poverty, where no good and reward earning actions and deeds can be performed.'"

It is also written in the same above mention book "Khazanat al-Riwayat", that: "It is reported from Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas (Radi Allahu Anhuma) that, when the days of Eids, Jumah (Friday), Ashura (10th of the first Islamic calendar month) or evening of the Shab-i-Barat (15th of Shaban al-Mawazzam, the 8th Islamic calendar month) approaches.

Then, the souls of the deceased ordinary and common Muslims visit their homes. They stand at their doors and says: 'Is there anyone that, who can remembers us?' 'Is there anyone, who can show compassion and generosity towards us?' 'Is there anyone, who will think of our poverty and remember us?'"

Question: 2

What do the learned Ulama (scholars) of

Islam say regarding this issue in the light of the Holy Quran, Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam), Sahabah (Radi Allahu Anhuma) and our pious and great predecessors, who truly followed them on the path of Islam, that:

"How does the soul of a deceased Muslim remain in contact with the relatives after it has left the body?"

May Allah Ta'ala immensely reward you for your efforts and endeavour to serve the religion of Islam and the truly believing Muslims, through the means and intercession of the Last and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam).

Imamuddin Sahib, Rampur. 19 Rabbi al-Aakhir 1326. A.H., 1905. A.D.

Answer: 2

In the light of true teaching and the fundamental sources of Islam, death does not mean that, the soul of the deceased person has also died. But death means the separation of the soul from the physical body. When these two elements are separated from each other then, it is called and described, as death.

The soul will always remain alive and shall never die. It is stated in a Hadith of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) that: "You have been created that, your soul will live forever."

So, just as the soul had contact and interacted in the psychical body and, because of this emergence and getting together of these two different elements, resulted to become a living human being, during this physical life in This World.

The soul does still have this connection after the human soul has departed from the physical body; and is declared and said that he has died. It is clearly stated in the Sahih Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) that:

"Every Friday, the deeds of a deceased Muslim's relatives and offspring are presented to them. They are pleased with the good deeds and sad with the bad deeds. So, do not make them sad those who have departed from you and, have passed away from this world, O! servants of Allah."

Question: 3

What do the learned Ulama (scholars) of Islam say regarding this issue in the light of the Holy Quran, Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) Sahabah (Companions) and all those who followed them on the true path of Islam that:

"At what place do the souls of the dead Muslims live after their death? Do they remain with the body, or do the souls have any sort of contact with the bodies after death, or not?"

May Allah Ta'ala reward you hugely from His Everlasting Mercy by the means of the Last, the most Beloved and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam). Ameen!

Answer: 3

After death, the souls of the Muslims, who have died, live in the Barzakh (a World between this World and the Next World) in different forms and ranks. If, the descends are pious, they will be bestowed status according to their high ranks and status before Allah Ta'ala, or if not, it may be in the middle, or lowest. As it has been mentioned regarding the Martyrs that: "They live in the form of the green birds in Paradise."

The place of the soul does differ after the death, according to their high and low status. Some of them are in their graves. And some of them are those who live near the fountain of 'Zam Zam', near the Holy Ka'bah in the Holy city of Makkah.

There are some other, who live in the between the heavens and the earth. Some live in the heavens, and some others live beneath the Arsh in the lanterns of the Noor (Light)."

The most distinguished, learned, venerated and the great Imam Jalaluddin Suyuti (Radi Allahu Anh) has mentioned all these in detail in his most renowned and famous book "Sharah as-Sudoor."

Question: 4

1. Whatever the relatives feel, experience and comprehend in this World, is that also felt, experienced and comprehended by those who have died and, after their death in the life Hereafter?

2. What are the forms of the punishment and reward, when the body of a person has been mixed up in sand, soil, in the air, consumed by animals, beasts and the soul goes on to its

appointed place after death?

3. What is the place for the soul after a human being has died?

4. In a dream, sometimes, if a relative sees his deceased relative. Does the deceased also know about this?

5. What is the reality of the soul? It is often heard that, the soul of the dead person is aware of what happens in the World?

6. Does the deceased person also know, when someone from his family, or friend, or relative, visits his grave?

May Allah Ta'ala reward you immensely for your efforts and endeavour from His eternal Mercy, best of the reward, by the means and intercession of His Last the beloved and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam)! Ameen!

Answer: 4

1. If the living relatives suffer from any pain and they have any other bad experience; then, the deceased also becomes sad because of his living relative's pain and sadness. Therefore, it is forbidden in Islam for us to cry loudly over a dead person's body.

And, the reason behind this has been mentioned as: "When you cry loudly in grief over a dead person's body then, the deceased will also cry and will be saddened. Therefore, do not cause grief to a deceased person after his death."

2. The human soul will never become dust, or perish forever. It is the body of some people that will become dust. But there are some original particles of the body that, cannot be seen by anything and which will not be destroyed, but will remain intact. Surely, these will remain in the existence. Because of them the body will rise on the Day of Judgement. The punishment and the reward are for both, body and soul.

Those who say this is only for the soul not for the physical and material body, they are, no doubt, misled people. Both, the soul and the original particles of the body will remain in the existence. Even what has become dust is not completely disintegrated. Both, the soul and the body have separate origins and different forms of existence.

The example, which is described in the Hadith of the Last and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa

Sallam) clearly demonstrates and tells us that, the punishment is for both, body and the soul, that: "There is a orchard and the eating of the fruit from the orchard is forbidden.

The example of this is that: 'There is a crippled person lying outside the orchard, who cannot walk but can see. He can see the fruits, but cannot reach them.' Then, a blind person arrives there, and the crippled person says to the blind man: 'You carry me on your shoulders and I will show you the way to the fruit trees.'

In this way both, blind and, crippled will eat the fruits from the orchard.

The blind person carries the crippled person to the trees; and they both eat and share from the fruits. Now, who amongst both of them is more worthy of the punishment?

Surely, both of them are equally criminals and transgressors. If the blind man had not taken the crippled to the fruits trees, the crippled would not have gone near there, and had not eaten fruits from it. And, if the crippled man had not shown him the way to the fruits trees then, the blind man would not have seen it and had not eaten fruits from the trees.

The crippled man is the soul in that, it knows and can see, but it is not able to do any actions. And, the blind man is the physical and material body that, it is not able to do any actions, and it even cannot see itself. Thus, they both acted together and committed a crime. For this reason, both of them are, worthy of the punishment.

3. There are differing opinions among the venerated and the great Imams of Islam about where the souls live after the physical body's death? But all believe that, the souls live according to their high status and true belief in the religion of Islam; and then, performing of good actions. And low status for the sinners. Some say that some souls remain in the grave and some other says that, souls stay near the fountain of 'Zam Zam.'

Many other says that, the souls stay between the heavens and the earth. And some others believe that, the souls stay on the first Heaven, second Heaven and other higher Heavens above them. And some others say the souls stay in the further higher Heavens.

And some others say they live in the form

of green birds under the Arsh of Allah Ta'ala in lanterns of Noor (Light). Undoubtedly, the souls of the Kaffirs stay in a place called, 'Wadi al-Barhoot', and some say they stay in a place that is called Sijjeen. And Allah Ta'ala Knows best.

4. Sometimes, the deceased person does know and sometimes they don't know about this. This issue has been beautifully explained in the famous and the renowned book "Sharah as-Sudoor", by distinguished and learned, Hazrat Imam Jalaluddin Suyuti (Radi Allahu Anh). Allah Ta'ala Knows best!

5. Allah Ta'ala has mentioned in the Holy Quran: "The soul is Allah Ta'ala's command, and His creation and humans have not been given absolute understanding or comprehension of it but only a little."

The power of the soul, of its seeing, of its hearing, and of its knowing, do remain and exist, even after death. The power of the believer's soul even sometimes becomes greater and more powerful than during the worldly life. Allah Ta'ala Knows best.

6. Yes! The deceased person sees those

who visit his grave, and he even hears their voices. If he recognised them during his life then, he will recognise them even after death. If the visiting person is one of his relatives, or a friend. Then, the deceased is very pleased, when he visits his grave.

All these have been stated and clearly mentioned in the Hadiths of the Last and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam). And, these also have been demonstrated and proven by the statements of the venerated and the great Imams, the Awliya and the Ulama.

This is the Aqida (belief or faith) of the Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'at, the majority group (as-Sawad-al-Azam).

If anyone would like to know and see more details and explanations regarding this issue, he should read our other book "al-Hayat al-Amwat." Allah Ta'ala Knows best!

Question: 5

What do the Ulama say regarding this issue that: "If a Muslim dies on Thursday, will he be spared from the questionings and the punishment of the grave? Is it particularly for

Thursday, or as well as for any other days? And will he be forgiven forever?

Answer: 5

There is not any particular command relating to Thursday. But, this has been mentioned concerning the evening of Friday (eve between Thursday and Friday) and during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Those Muslims, who die during these days shall be spared from the questions of the Nakirain (two Angels called, Munkar and Nakeer, who ask questions from a newly deceased person in the grave).

And he will also be spared from the torment of the grave. Allah Ta'ala is the most Merciful, He can forgive anyone, or He can hold anyone responsible for his actions, that someone who has committed wrong against Islam. And Allah Ta'ala Knows best.

Question: 6

What do the learned Ulama (scholars) of Islam say regarding this issue in the light of the Holy Quran, Hadiths of the Last, the beloved and the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam), Sahabah and all those of our

greatest predecessors, that some persons says that:

"If there are two persons, who have the same names. Then, is there any possibility that, when the time of death comes near for one. Instead of the person, who is to be designated to die, the other person may be mistakenly taken away by the Angel of death?

They also say that, such incidents have happened before in the past. Where, one person had passed away and after a little while, he revived again. Then, another person who had the same name, died. When the first person was asked about what had happened to him? He informed them about out of body experiences.

Kindly, describe what is the Islamic view on this matter in the light of the Holy Quran, Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam), Sahabah and all those dignitaries of Islam, who truly followed them, regarding this issue?

Answer: 6

This is absolutely and completely false, nonsense and clearly wrong. Only an evil person, or a devil can say, or believe, or assume in such a

ridiculous thing, but that cannot happen. The obedient Angels of Allah Ta'ala do not, cannot, and absolutely never make such errors or mistakes.

The Angels are such obedient servants and creation of Allah Ta'ala that, they always carryout His commands as they are told, and informed. And there are no faults, and forgetfulness, as human have, in the nature of Angels and in their understanding.

They are bound and commended to fulfil commands of Allah Ta'ala. And they carryout those commands of Allah Ta'ala very, very precisely, honestly and most skillfully, so that, they do not make any such mistake or error. When they carryout and fulfil Allah Ta'ala's command, they act, as they are told and nothing else.

And Allah Ta'ala says: "The Angels do only that what they have been commanded."

The Raza Academy

The Raza Academy is a Sunni Muslim organisation which is named after Shaikh al Islam, as-Shaikh, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi, who lived in India between 1856 and 1921, and was such a great Muslim that he was called the Reviver of the 14th Islamic Century. The Raza Academy was set up in 1979, to serve the Muslim Community in Britain. It has done this by publishing Islamic literature and books. The first success was the publication in 1984 of an English translation of Imam Raza Khan's Urdu edition of the Holy Quran. In November, 1985 Raza Academy began publishing the Journal, 'The Islamic Times', which has appeared monthly regularly, ever since. In the last few years Raza Academy has developed as a publisher of books on Islam, and now has over one hundred titles in its list, and will hopefully add many more titles to that every year.

The key aim of Raza Academy is to continue the life's work of Imam Raza, which was in the defence of traditional Islam. In Imam

Raza's lifetime the challenge came from Wahabism, Western Atheism and Science, which was infecting many Muslim Modernists, and the challenge also came from the other trends in Indian Islam, which were rejecting Sufism and the Awliya, and many other aspects of Islam which Imam Raza was keen to defend in every way. Imam Raza stood for resolute defence of the rich traditions of Islam, and that is the aim of Raza Academy.

The main work of Raza Academy, has been the production of the monthly Journal 'The Islamic Times', which is distributed through various outlets all over the U.K. and the World, and may be obtained by subscribing by anyone who wishes through the post. The Islamic Times has reached a very high standard indeed, and can justly be described as one of the best Muslim Journals in Britain.

It includes a regular translation of a Quranic Surah, which is translated into the simplest and clearest English possible, and a monthly Tafsir of a Surah of the Quran, which provides a traditional Tafsir, which seeks to revive the true original Tafsir, and get away from

the Modernist Tafsirs that so often pass for commentary on, and analysis of the Quranic text. 'The Islamic Times', also includes regular features which seek to educate the public in the rich traditions of Islam.

One such feature described the Miracles of the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) and has now been published as a book by Raza Academy. Another feature is a description of the Islamic months, listing, for example, special events in the Islamic Calendar, for example, Milad an-Nabi, Miraj an-Nabi and the Urs of Awliya occurring in that month! The Journal regularly covers the annual cycle of Muslim festivals, and is, for example, unique source for articles about Milad an-Nabi.

The late Prof. G.D. Qureshi has provided in the past a translation of the poetry of Imam Raza, which deals with praises of Allah Ta'ala, the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaih wa Sallam) and Awliya and is beautiful beyond my powers of description (as well as translating Urdu into idiomatic English rhyming couplets!). Now this has been published in book form. The Islamic Time; also publishes some of the finest

political articles written today on controversial subjects of current Islamic politics, giving a uniquely Islamic theoretical analysis of questions of government and society.

In the last few years Raza Academy has put in print a wide range of unique books and pamphlets. As is to be expected, Raza Academy publishes books and pamphlets by and about Imam Raza and all aspects of Islam. Raza Academy has launched a project to make the more important works of Imam Raza available in English, and a stream of works is beginning to be published.

The Raza Academy has new published biographies of Imam Raza, and works analysing his importance both in the history of Indian, and in the general context of World history. In addition to books about Imam Raza, the Raza Academy has published a wide ranging series of works on Islam, written from a uniquely Islamic perspective.

There are books on the Islamic Penal System, Islam and Women, and many more. Our Distinguished colleague, Dr. Muhammad Rizvi, has written a masterly and unique account of

modern Islamic movements. There is a unique book about Hazrat Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani. Raza Academy have also begun publishing Muslim books for children, based on the Sunni perspective, telling the children of the Ahlus Sunnat belief! Of course Raza Academy has published, and will continue to publish, work in the praise of the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam)! All these books may be ordered from any good bookshop, as all Raza Academy publications carry ISBN numbers, and appear on the list of books in print in England.

The aim of Raza Academy is to uphold and revive the culture and traditions of Islam, which so many today have tried to destroy. The Raza Academy, in doing this, seeks to oppose all the extremist, militant, fundamentalist, lunatic and totalitarian trends within the Muslim Community, and seeks to build the real unity of the Muslims, of which, only Islam can be the base.

The work of Raza Academy is like a fountain in the desert of the modern World, where all culture has been banished by the spiritual and material crisis we see around us.

But the key to all we do at Raza Academy is the aim that was nearest to the heart of Imam Ahmad Raza Khan Barelvi and that was the most complete and total upholding of the superiority of, and love and respect for, our beautiful Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam). Raza Academy is, as yet, a small organisation but our aims have World-Historical importance for the Muslims and for the whole World, and with the hidden help and support of the Awliya and of the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) we will, Insha-Allah, succeed! Ameen!

Pir Mummad Ilyas Chatrovi Kashmiri
Founder and Chairman

Details of any aspect of the work and publications of Raza Academy may be obtained from :

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Shaikh al-Islam as-Shaikh Imam Ahmad Raza was the most learned scholar of Islam in his time. He was fully qualified in more than one hundred old and modern sciences, and learnings. When he was asked any question regarding any old or modern sciences, whether on religious or secular subjects, he would answer in such details that the questioner would be satisfied with the answer. He would not have to go to any other scholar for further clarification. He was questioned about the soul and whether the soul returned back home for rewards during any day or night? He answered these question in such details that, if anyone has a fair and a understanding mind, he would definitely be satisfied. But these days there are some ignorant and arrogant people, who does not believe, that it could happen, because they lack knowledge and understanding, and so they reject it.

Dr. Muhammad Raza is a devote Muslim living in Europe. He has translated some works by Imam Ahmad Raza Khan before. This is another translation by him. We hope soon he will translate more work by Imam Ahmad Raza Khan, for the Raza Academy, Stockport, U.K.

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